

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 12, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2232

Introduced by Assembly Member Gray
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Alejo)
(Coauthors: Senators Cannella and Galgiani)

February 21, 2014

An act relating to the University of California, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2232, as amended, Gray. University of California: medical education.

Existing provisions of the California Constitution establish the University of California as a public trust under the administration of the Regents of the University of California. The University of California system includes 10 campuses, which are located in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to the role of the University of California with respect to access to health care in the San Joaquin Valley.

The bill would appropriate \$1,225,000 from the General Fund to the regents each fiscal year, commencing with the 2015–16 fiscal year, for allocation to the University of California to support expansion of the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education, as specified.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
- 3 (a) The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,
4 when fully implemented in 2014, will mean that millions of
5 previously uninsured Californians will be seeking health services,
6 including physician care. As a result of this additional demand for
7 physician services, the projected statewide physician shortfall is
8 17,000 by 2015.
- 9 (b) The San Joaquin Valley, which runs from Stockton to
10 Bakersfield, is rich in cultural diversity and is the nation's leading
11 agricultural region. However, the valley is disproportionately
12 affected by the state's physician shortage, which is expected to
13 intensify in the years ahead given the high rate of population
14 growth in the area. Access to health care is 31 percent lower in the
15 San Joaquin Valley than in the rest of California.
- 16 (c) Several regions of the San Joaquin Valley are federally
17 designated Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs). The calculation
18 of MUAs involves four variables: ratio of primary medical care
19 physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage
20 of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and
21 percentage of the population 65 years of age or over.
- 22 (d) UC Merced's San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical
23 Education (PRIME) is providing a key resource for training valley
24 health care providers. This program accomplishes all of the
25 following:
- 26 (1) Strengthens the desire for new physicians to practice in the
27 San Joaquin Valley, which is one of California's most medically
28 underserved areas.
- 29 (2) Reduces health disparities and inequalities in the San Joaquin
30 Valley.
- 31 (3) Forms lasting relationships between the program and
32 communities, hospitals, clinics, and physicians to enhance health
33 care in the region.
- 34 (e) Students who take part in PRIME benefit from firsthand
35 experience with interdisciplinary health care by providing care in

1 medically underserved communities, working with patients and
2 families from culturally diverse backgrounds, and developing a
3 true understanding of the issues and conditions that impact access
4 to and quality of health care in the region.

5 (f) Despite its numerous benefits for its region, PRIME lacks
6 an ongoing source of funding for its current enrollment as well as
7 the financial resources to expand capacity to meet the needs of the
8 valley.

9 SEC. 2. The sum of one million two hundred twenty-five
10 thousand dollars (\$1,225,000) is hereby appropriated from the
11 General Fund to the Regents of the University of California each
12 fiscal year, commencing with the 2015–16 fiscal year, for
13 allocation to the University of California to support expansion of
14 the San Joaquin Valley PRIME program to admit up to 12 students
15 per year and *to* operate the program with up to 48 student
16 participants from across the four-year curriculum annually.